

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 NEA-10 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /101 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:DNJOHNSON:LCB
APPROVED BY EUR:GSVEST
NSC:DCLIFT
EUR/EE:NGANDREWS
S/S: DANDERSON
-----018069 291509Z /45

R 291412Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192091

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YO, US, OVIP (MARKOVIC, DRAGOSLAV)

SUBJECT: MARKOVIC VISIT: MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT
AND THE VICE PRESIDENT, JULY 19, 1978

1. SUMMARY : THE VICE PRESIDENT RECEIVED THE MARKOVIC
DELEGATION AT 10:45 FOR A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL
RELATIONS, NONALIGNMENT AND THE MIDDLE EAST. THE
PRESIDENT DROPPED IN ON THE MEETING ABOUT 11:15, GREETED
THE MEMBERS INDIVIDUALLY AND REITERATED HIS PERSONAL
INTEREST IN CLOSER US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE VICE PRESIDENT WELCOMED MARKOVIC AND THE ENTIRE
YUGOSLAV DELEGATION, PLUS AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI AND TWO
EMBASSY STAFFERS, AND CONGRATULATED MARKOVIC ON HIS
RECENT ELECTION AS ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT. HE SAID THAT HE
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WAS ALWAYS PLEASED TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF
YUGOSLAVIA AND FELT THAT RELATIONS HAD GOTTEN OFF TO A
GOOD START WITH THIS ADMINISTRATION WITH HIS OWN VISIT
LAST YEAR, MR. KARDELJ'S VISIT AND ABOVE ALL PRESIDENT
TITO'S STATE VISIT TO WASHINGTON. OUR RELATIONS ARE
BASED ON AN APPRECIATION OF THE ROLE OF EACH AND ON
MUTUAL RESPECT. BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE VERY GOOD. THE

KRSKO PROBLEM HAS APPARENTLY BEEN RESOLVED, WHICH WE WELCOME. WE APPLAUD YUGOSLAVIA'S LEADERSHIP ROLE AMONG THE NONALIGNED. AND WE SUPPORT THE INDEPENDENCE, UNITY AND CONTINUED SECURITY OF YUGOSLAVIA.

3. MARKOVIC RESPONDED THAT IT WAS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE AND TO MEET WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT. THE MEETINGS AT THE CONGRESS WITH MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE HAD INVOLVED OPEN DISCUSSIONS ON BOTH SIDES. CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO PARLIAMENTARY BODIES WERE FREQUENT AND WELL-DEVELOPED EVEN THOUGH THIS WAS THE FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT FROM THE YUGOSLAV ASSEMBLY. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE AT A HIGH LEVEL. PRESIDENT TITO'S VISIT WAS THE CLIMAX TO THE PROCESS INITIATED BY THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA LAST YEAR. TITO PERSONALLY ASKED THAT HIS GREETINGS BE CONVEYED TO THE VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT CARTER.

4. THE VICE PRESIDENT SAID THAT WE LOOKED FORWARD TO THE FURTHER EXPANSION OF RELATIONS AND THAT THE YUGOSLAVS WOULD SEE THE GOODWILL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AS THEY TRAVEL AROUND. HE SAID JOKINGLY THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE VISITED MINNESOTA AND THAT IT WAS A BIG MISTAKE TO OVERLOOK IT.

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5. MARKOVIC NOTED THAT THE NONALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD BE MEETING IN BELGRADE STARTING JULY 26. THERE WOULD BE 86 FULL PARTICIPANTS AND 24 OBSERVERS. PREPARATIONS WERE IN FULL SWING AND THE YUGOSLAVS WANT A SUCCESSFUL MEETING IN PREPARATION FOR THE NONALIGNED SUMMIT IN HAVANA NEXT YEAR. LOCAL CONFLICTS WERE NOTHING NEW, BUT THEY SEEMED MORE PRONOUNCED NOW. YUGOSLAVIA WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME. MARKOVIC THEN MENTIONED THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, SAYING THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED SO FAR DURING THE VISIT. HE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS ON THIS QUESTION.

6. THE VICE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE HAD RECENTLY VISITED ISRAEL AND EGYPT IN AN EFFORT TO PUSH THE MOMENTUM FOR A SETTLEMENT. THE TALKS WERE USEFUL. NOW THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES PLUS SECRETARY VANCE WERE MEETING AT LEEDS CASTLE IN ENGLAND AND WE WERE JUST BEGINNING TO GET REPORTS OF THE MEETING. THE ANXIETIES AND SUSPICIONS ARE PROFOUND. BUT THE FAILURE TO FIND PEACE WOULD BE A CATASTROPHE. WHATEVER YUGOSLAVIA CAN DO TO ENCOURAGE LESS PUBLIC TALK AND MORE PROGRESS WOULD BE WELCOMED. WE HAVE NO NATIONAL DESIGNS ON THE MIDDLE

EAST EXCEPT TO FIND PEACE FOR THE AREA.

7. MARKOVIC REPLIED THAT THE YUGOSLAV POSITION ON THE MIDDLE EAST IS WELL KNOWN AND PRESIDENT TITO HAD DISCUSSED THE QUESTION DURING HIS VISIT HERE. YUGOSLAVIA SUPPORTS A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT CONSISTENT WITH UN RESOLUTION 242. IT IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE GROWING FRICTIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IN THE YUGOSLAV VIEW, SADAT HAD ERRED BY TAKING HIS INITIATIVE WITHOUT COORDINATION WITH THE OTHER ARAB LEADERS.

8. AT THIS POINT THE PRESIDENT ARRIVED AND WELCOMED THE DELEGATION, SHAKING HANDS AND BEING INTRODUCED TO EACH MEMBER INDIVIDUALLY. UPON HEARING THE TITLES OF THE
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MEMBERS HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THEY WOULD TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF RESOLVING PROBLEMS AT THEIR OWN LEVEL SO AS TO KEEP FROM OVERBURDENING "MY FRIEND" PRESIDENT TITO. HE SAID THAT WE VALUE OUR STRONG FRIENDSHIP WITH YUGOSLAVIA. THE STRENGTH, COURAGE AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE YUGOSLAV PEOPLE ARE IMPORTANT TO US, HE ADDED. IT HAD BEEN A PLEASURE TO SEE AND TALK WITH PRESIDENT TITO, AND THE TWO HAD AGREED ON ALMOST EVERY ISSUE. THIS ASSEMBLY VISIT IS ANOTHER STEP IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING TO KNOW US BETTER-- THE VICE PRESIDENT, THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS. WE ARE ALWAYS EAGER TO LEARN FROM THE YUGOSLAVS HOW U.S. POWER CAN BEST BE USED. THE PRESIDENT ASKED THAT THE DELEGATION MEMBERS RELAY HIS PERSONAL BEST WISHES AND FRIENDSHIP TO MR. KARDELJ AND PRESIDENT TITO WHOSE FRIENDSHIP HE VALUES.

9. THE VICE PRESIDENT CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY SAYING THAT THE PRESIDENT'S APPEARANCE AT THE MEETING WAS A MEASURE OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO OUR MUTUALLY RESPECTFUL CLOSE RELATIONSHIP.

10. ATTENDING ON THE US SIDE, BESIDES THE PRESIDENT AND THE VICE PRESIDENT, WERE ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST, ASSISTANT TO THE VICE PRESIDENT DENIS CLIFT, AND HIRC STAFFER PETER ABBRUZZESE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE192091
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DNJOHNSON:LCB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780312-0046
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978075/aaaaaehs.tel
Line Count: 161
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6ee2f071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1978566
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARKOVIC VISIT: MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE VICE PRESIDENT, JULY 19, 1978
TAGS: OVIP, YO, US, (MARKOVIC, DRAGOSLAV)
To: BELGRADE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6ee2f071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014